

has accepted. I commend the members of this coalition for their dedication and teamwork, and congratulate them for several meaningful and successful events during this year's Black on Black Crime Prevention Month and for their unyielding efforts throughout the year.

ISRAEL'S DESIGNATION OF JANUARY 27, 2004 AS "NATIONAL DAY TO COMBAT ANTI-SEMITISM"

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, today, people in Israel and around the world are joining in solidarity to commemorate January 27, 2004, as a "National Day to Combat Anti-Semitism." At a time when many Jewish communities are facing a rising tide of anti-Semitism, it is important that all people of goodwill work together to educate and fight anti-Semitism. This insidious form of hatred has lingered in this world for so long that it has been dubbed "the longest hatred."

Today marks the 64th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. While six decades have passed since the genocidal regime of Adolf Hitler fell, the urgency of combating anti-Semitism has never ceased. In the past year, numerous anti-Semitic acts have occurred across the world. In many European countries, including several countries that are amongst our closest allies, the frequency of anti-Semitic attacks are increasing. Jewish cemeteries, schools, synagogues, and individuals have been the center of an increasing number of violent incidents.

These targets have essentially remained the same over the millennia. Such attacks seek to intimidate and threaten individuals and desecrate institutions. We face an increasing array of groups who would perpetrate these acts.

In November 2003, people across the world were horrified when suicide bombers targeted two synagogues in Istanbul, Turkey. At least 25 people were killed and almost 300 people, both Jewish and Muslim, were wounded. One of the synagogues was Neve Shalom, the center of Turkey's Jewish community. This crowded congregation was celebrating a young boy's Bar Mitzvah at the time of the bombing. This attack was, without question, a specific and politically charged choice, given Turkey's close ties with Israel, the United States and NATO as well as its commitment to democracy.

Another widely reported anti-Semitic act came a month earlier when former Malaysian Prime Minister Mahatir Muhammed stated that, "The Europeans killed 6 million Jews out of 12 million. But today the Jews rule this world by proxy. They get others to fight and die for them." That a leader would make allusions to a worldwide Jewish conspiracy, one of the foremost claims of anti-Semitic hatred, is particularly appalling. It is unconscionable to think that a longtime leader of a sovereign nation would fan the flames of hatred and recrimination against people of the Jewish faith. It is

more disconcerting that 57 leaders of the countries in the Islamic conference stood and applauded his speech. Mahatir's rhetoric was both ignorant and dangerous.

Even while these two events splashed the front pages of newspapers worldwide, numerous other incidents that hardly received notice caused irreversible damage all the same.

During an exhibit held in Australia last month called "Courage to Care," two extremist groups sprayed a museum with anti-Semitic and racist slogans and covered it with swastikas. This was an exhibit that commemorated Australian survivors of the Holocaust. The criminals also left papers at the scene that portrayed a skull and crossbones and said, "Death to Israel."

In an attack in a suburb of Paris that coincided with the synagogue bombings in Turkey, a Jewish school was set on fire. Just a month earlier in Paris, a rabbi was verbally and physically attacked on his way to synagogue. In October, tombstones in a Jewish cemetery east of Berlin, Germany, were defaced by vandals who painted swastikas and anti-Semitic statements such as "you got what you deserved," and "Heil Hitler."

The United States has not been free from such attacks, either. Earlier this year, a Holocaust Museum in Terre Haute, IN, was destroyed by arson, with only the words "Remember Timmy McVeigh," left behind.

In April 2002, I joined with 99 of my colleagues in sending a letter to President Bush that requested that he and his administration "make every effort possible to raise, at the highest level, our concerns about anti-Semitic acts in Europe and anti-Semitic portrayals in the Arab media."

I was heartened by German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer's statement at a conference on anti-Semitism last fall that, we are firmly committed to countering every kind of anti-Semitism, every kind of racism and xenophobia." In addition, French Prime Minister Chirac announced that "attacking a Jew in France is an attack on all of France." Such remarks fully acknowledge the threat posed by anti-Semitism. Anti-Semitism is not merely the enemy of Jews. It is the enemy of tolerance, freedom and openness; the very core values of all democracies.

Attacks on one religion, race or ethnicity threaten all of us. We have learned that when hatred is allowed to fester and grow, it can spread with a frightening degree of rapidity and virulence. It is imperative that the global community work to address not only the continuing prevalence of anti-Semitism, but also hatred against all religious and ethnic minorities.

I hope all my colleagues will join with me in commemorating Israel's "National Day To Combat Anti-Semitism," and in rededicating their commitment to fight hatred wherever it may be found.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CONGRATULATIONS TO HOSKINS COIN AND JEWELRY

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I pay tribute and congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Charles and Doris Hoskins of Paducah, KY on their dedication and entrepreneurial spirit in their 50th year of business at Hoskins Coin and Jewelry, Inc.

Mr. and Mrs. Hoskins opened business together in 1953, selling mostly furniture in downtown Paducah, KY. Mr. Hoskins, building on his military service in World War II, joined the Paducah police force and served for the next 16 years. Meanwhile, Mrs. Hoskins ran their small business and kept its books.

Over the last few decades, their business has flourished as evolved. This small family business looked for opportunities to expand—moving to a larger location down Third Street. Following the passions of Mr. and Mrs. Hoskins, the store started to buy and sell coins, estate jewelry and eventually began to offer a full line of retail jewelry.

Hoskins Coin and Jewelry, Inc. is now a staple of downtown Paducah. Their children, Ronnie and Linda Hoskins Duff, work alongside their parents who have even found room for grandson Brent Hoskins to work part-time. Local residents walk into this families store looking for a special gift, to learn about the latest coin they have found or just to talk about the community. This small family business is a shining example of one of the many small businesses that form the local economic foundations in Kentucky.

Thank you, Charles and Doris, for your commitment to the city of Paducah and your entrepreneurial spirit. I have sincere appreciation for your work. I wish you and your family continued success and happiness. •

TRIBUTE TO THE SPIRIT OF IDAHO AWARD RECIPIENTS

• Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, today I honor over 158 individuals and organizations working every day to make Idaho a great place to live. I'm talking about the recipients of the Spirit of Idaho Award. I created this award almost 3 years ago to recognize and bring attention to the many deeds of service that happen in local Idaho communities that are not always recognized by the media or the general public. Recipients of this award improve lives every day with their selfless giving and shining examples. I would like to take a moment today and recognize each of these outstanding individuals.

Kamrud Jacobson delivers newspapers in Twin Falls. While completing his route one day, Kamrud noticed unusual smoke coming from the chimney of a nearby house. He quickly asked a neighbor to call 911. The Fire Department responded and put out a growing house fire. Kamrud's vigilant actions effectively saved the house from burning to the ground. Kamrud's efforts embody the qualities of service and